GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4273
ANSWERED ON:18.12.2001
UNDERTRIALS IN JAILS
PRABODH PANDA;SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Supreme Court of India had issued instructions to all the State Governments to take urgent steps for the expeditious disposal of cases of undertrials who are languishing in jails;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Union Government have taken any steps to issue directions to the State Governments for holding Jail Adalats frequently in all the jails to ensure early disposal of cases of undertrials; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken or being taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (I.D. SWAMI)

(a)to(d): The Hon`ble Chief Justice of India, on the administrative side, wrote a letter on the 29th November, 1999 to all the Chief Justices of the High Courts suggesting that every Chief Metropolitan Magistrate or the Chief Judicial Magistrate of the area, in which a District jail falls, may hold his Court once or twice in a month, in the jail to take up the cases of those under trial prisoners who are involved in petty offences.

The Government have also issued instructions to all the State Governments/ Union Territory Administrations to take necessary action in pursuance of the Supreme Court`s order dated 13.10.1999 and 7.12.1999 passed in Writ Petition (Civil) NO.559/1994-R.D. Upadhayaya Vs. State of Andhra Pradesh and Others.

The Central Government have sanctioned a scheme of setting up 1734 Fast Track Courts on the basis of the recommendations of the Eleventh Finance Commission.These Fast Track Courts are disposing off long pending sessions cases and other cases involving undertrials on priority.